



ELECTION FOCUS 2008



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No. 9

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Clinton Concedes, Encourages Supporters to Back Obama (06-09-2008)

McCain, Obama focus on how they will “change” the United States

New York Senator Hillary Clinton ended her campaign to become the first female U.S. president June 7, saying she fully supports her Democratic opponent Barack Obama. In a speech in Washington, Clinton thanked her supporters and encouraged them to support Illinois Senator Obama, who has enough delegates to be his party's presumed presidential nominee.

"Now, when I started this race, I intended to win back the White House and make sure we have a president who puts our country back on the path to peace, prosperity and progress. And that's exactly what we're going to do by ensuring that Barack Obama walks through the doors of the Oval Office on January 20th, 2009," Clinton said.



In a speech in Washington on June 7, Hillary Clinton encourages supporters to back Barack Obama

Blogs at America.gov - CAMPAIGN TRAIL TALK

<http://blogs.america.gov/campaign/>

Provides running commentary and information on the 2008 elections in the United States. This blog keeps readers up to date on news, rumors and political chatter surrounding thousands of political races. Readers may ask questions about the electoral process, post their comments about the candidates, and generally guide the discussion.

From the blog:

Al Gore endorses Barack Obama — By [Michelle Austein](#), 18 June 2008

Former Vice President Al Gore, one of the country's best-known Democrats, stayed pretty quiet during his party's long primary season. But now that the party has a nominee, Gore is speaking up, telling Obama's supporters that "from now through Election Day, I intend to do whatever I can to make sure [Obama] is elected president of the United States."

In a campaign rally in Detroit, Gore said "the outcome of this election will affect the future of our planet." Since he lost his bid for the presidency in 2000 to George W. Bush, Gore has been a vocal advocate for curbing climate change and won a Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

Commenting on the [candidates' views on climate change](#), Gore said presumed Republican nominee John McCain should be complimented for showing "a willingness to debate some critical issues, including the climate crisis, that many Republicans have refused to discuss at all."

Gore said that Obama "knows that we are too dependent on foreign oil and carbon fuel and has proposed a plan to create millions of good new jobs in renewable, green energy, conservation and efficiency."

Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman, Gore's running mate in 2000, endorsed a candidate months ago. The Democrat turned Independent Lieberman has been supporting and [campaigning with McCain](#).

Daily updated information is available at a special **U.S. Elections** page at:

<http://uspolitics.america.gov/uspolitics/elections/>

POLLS

[Daily Presidential Tracking Poll](#) - Rasmussen Reports, June 19, 2008

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Thursday shows Barack Obama attracting 45% of the vote while John McCain earns 42%. When "leaners" are included, Obama holds a three-point advantage, 48% to 45%.

[The Electoral Barometer vs the Polls](#) - Center for Politics, June 19, 2008 By Alan I. Abramowitz

A question that keeps arising in connection with this year's presidential race is why, given the extremely favorable political environment for Democrats, Barack Obama has not been able to establish a clear lead over John McCain in national polls. Based on President Bush's extraordinarily low approval ratings (28 percent in the most recent Gallup Poll), a deteriorating economy, and the fact that Republicans have controlled the White House for the past eight years, the political environment this year appears to be one of the worst for the party in power in the past sixty years.

[Forty-Somethings May Hold Key to Election](#) – Gallup Poll, June 18, 2008

Barack Obama's appeal to younger voters and John McCain's support among older voters may have created a situation where the outcome will turn on the preferences of middle-aged voters -- particularly those in their 40s.

[Election 2008: Electoral College Update](#) - Rasmussen Reports, June 18, 2008

Electoral College: Democrats 200 Republicans 174 Leaners 139 Toss-Up 25

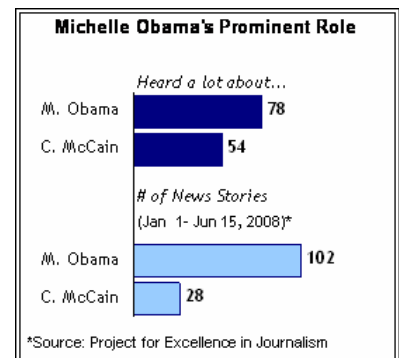
This Balance of Power Calculator aggregates data from a variety of sources to provide a comprehensive assessment of the state-by-state race for the White House.

[More Hear Negative News About Michelle Obama Than Cindy McCain - Coverage of the Candidates' Wives](#) - Pew Research Center, June 18, 2008

With the major party nominations now settled, the images of the candidates' wives are coming into sharper focus. While opinions about Cindy McCain and Michelle Obama are mostly positive, Mrs. Obama has emerged as the more high profile and controversial spouse.

[Voters See Big Differences Between Obama and McCain, Expect Close Election](#) - Rasmussen Reports, June 17, 2008

Just 14% of voters believe there's not much difference between Barack Obama and John McCain in terms of how they'll actually perform as President. The latest Rasmussen Reports telephone survey found that 77% disagreed and see a significant difference. These views are held fairly evenly across partisan and ideological lines.



[Americans Predict Obama Will Be Next U.S. President](#) - Gallup Poll, June 16, 2008

A 52% majority thinks Obama Will Win, Versus 41% Choosing McCain.

Barack Obama and John McCain are now about tied in Gallup Poll Daily tracking of voter preferences for the general election, nevertheless, in a June 9-12 Gallup Poll, Obama leads McCain 52% to 41% in public perceptions of who will win in November.

[Public Perceptions of Obama and McCain Shifting Rapidly](#) - Rasmussen Reports, June 9, 2008

Rasmussen Reports data shows that public perceptions of both Barack Obama and John McCain are shifting rapidly during Election 2008. That same data suggests perceptions will continue to change through Election Day.

[Most Americans See a Black Nominee as Important for Country](#) - Pew Research Center, June 11, 2008

A solid majority of Americans say it is at least somewhat important to the country that an African American has won the presidential nomination of a major political party. But there are wide political and racial divisions over the significance of Barack Obama's history-making achievement.

[Most Say Race Will Not Be a Factor in Their Presidential Vote](#) - Gallup Poll, June 6, 2008

A large majority of blacks, 78%, and an even larger majority of whites, 88%, say the fact that Barack Obama is black makes no difference in terms of their likelihood of voting for him for president.

CAMPAIGN 2008



[Obama Reverses Course on Public Funding](#) - Rasmussen Reports, June 19, 2008

Barack Obama reversed course today and said he will not rely on public funding for his presidential campaign, breaking a pledge he made to pursue such an arrangement with his Republican rival John McCain.

[Coverage Turns To Issues](#) - Pew Research Center, June 18, 2008

In the first official week of the general election, the differences between Barack Obama and John McCain on issues ranging from the economy to Iraq constituted the media's main campaign narrative. Together, the debates over several key issues accounted for 29% of the campaign newshole, as measured by PEJ's Campaign Coverage Index for June 9-15.

[Web Tools Help to Reshape '08 Campaign Trail](#) - PBS (Public Broadcasting Service), June 16, 2008

A new report from the Pew Internet and American Life Project finds that a record-breaking 46 percent of Americans have used the Internet, e-mail or cell phone text messaging to get news about the campaigns. Analysts examine how new Web-based tools are expanding the campaign trail.

[Most Americans See a Black Nominee as Important for Country](#) - Pew Research Center, June 11, 2008

Partisan and Racial Divisions Over Significance of Obama's Win

A solid majority of Americans say it is at least somewhat important to the country that an African American has won the presidential nomination of a major political party. But there are wide political and racial divisions over the significance of Barack Obama's history-making achievement.

[Many Debates in Variety of Venues Would Enliven Race](#) - American Enterprise Institute, June 11, 2008

The inchoate public demand for change, and for action in Washington, does not mesh with any larger consensus about what action should be taken to effect change.... We need to break out of the normal campaign mode, to have nuanced, textured and honest discussions of these huge problems and issues.

[Obama Transcript of NPR's "All Things Considered"](#) - Time, June 10, 2008 ...It's been said many times that the candidate who will actually win in November is the one who can convey to voters that they really feel their pain, that they understand their frustrations, and their economic failures. How do you convey that message that you understand what people are going through?

[Will states topple Electoral College?](#) - Stateline.org, June 9, 2008

Voters this fall will still use the Electoral College to determine the next occupant of the White House, but a movement is bubbling at the state level to bypass the process and instead ensure future presidents are the candidates who get the most votes nationwide — an outcome not always guaranteed under the current system.

[Economic Advisors to the Candidates](#) - Real Clear Politics, June 7, 2008 ...most analysts are saying they expect John McCain's economic policies anyway would be a continuation of President Bush; Obama's economic policies would be a reprise of the Clinton years. So Doug, to you first, is that an analysis that makes sense?

Election Calendar

[2008 Presidential Primary Dates and Candidate Filing Deadlines for Ballot Access](#) (pdf)



[Republican National Convention](#)

September 1-4, 2008,
Minneapolis -Saint Paul, Minnesota

[Democratic National Convention](#)

August 25-28, 2008
Denver, Colorado



ARTICLE ALERT

IT'S VETTING TIME! THE HISTORY OF THE SELECTION OF MODERN-DAY VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES IS CHOCK-FULL OF BLUNDERS CAUSED BY HASTE OR MISCALCULATIONS. By Marc Ambinder, *National Journal*, June 21, 2008

Just after twilight on July 1, 2004, John Kerry slipped through the garden in the back of his Georgetown town house. Accompanied by a single aide and two Secret Service agents, he walked about 60 feet uphill, crossed a side street, and entered the home of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. There he found a fellow senator, John Edwards, waiting for him. [FULL TEXT](#)

OBAMA TO REJECT PUBLIC FUNDS FOR ELECTION - By Shailagh Murray and Perry Bacon Jr., *Washington Post*, June 20, 2008; Page A01

Sen. Barack Obama reversed his pledge to seek public financing in the general election yesterday, a move that drew criticism from adversaries and allies alike but could provide him with a significant spending advantage over Republican rival John McCain. Obama will become the first major-party presidential nominee to reject the public funds, passing up nearly \$85 million in taxpayer money and instead looking to the 1.5 million donors who contributed to his primary campaign. [FULL TEXT](#)

5 LESSONS FOR PICKING A RUNNING MATE. By Susan Page, *USA Today*, June 11, 2008

Barack Obama and John McCain have clinched the Republican and Democratic presidential nominations but hardly have time to catch their breath, what with party factions to unite, key states to target, debates to negotiate, money to raise and TV ads to launch. Of them all, no move will be more closely chronicled or subjected to more fevered speculation than their choices of running mates. Based on interviews with those who have been involved in the process before, here are five lessons for picking a vice president. [FULL TEXT](#)

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: LONG-TERM CARE AND THE 2008 ELECTION. David G. Stevenson. *New England Journal of Medicine*, May 8, 2008, pp. 1985-1987. The author argues that the presidential candidates should be better addressing the nation's growing long-term care needs. About 10 million people in the U.S need constant assistance completing basic daily activities such as eating, bathing and dressing – and that number will only increase as baby boomers age. [FULL TEXT](#)

Plus - [Google News](#) as well as [Yahoo News](#) on **Elections** updated continuously

UPCOMING EVENTS



Video Webcast with U.S. Experts: [U.S. Elections](#)

Join America.gov's elections experts - **Michelle Austein** and **George Burkes** - to discuss the people, processes and issues that shape the U.S. presidential race. They will answer your questions and talk about the latest events on the 2008 campaign trail.

Date & Time: July 1, 2008, 09:00 a.m. EDT (1300 GMT)

Please note:

The U.S. State Department – IIP (International Information Programs) - is planning to produce and post materials explaining what happens during the transition of the U.S. presidential administrations. We would welcome your thoughts about what you would find most useful.

American Reference Center, Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy
P.O. Box 309, 814 99 Bratislava, Slovakia
Tel: +421-2-59223272; Fax: +421-2-54418862
<http://slovakia.usembassy.gov/arc.html>; holotnakovap@state.gov